

What is claimed is:

1. A growth medium for use with parasitic organisms, said media being free of bovine serum.
2. The medium of claim 1 wherein said media comprises calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, monosodium phosphate, glucose, hepes, ferric nitrate, magnesium sulfate, tricine, d-ribose, 2-deoxy ribose, adenosine-5-triphosphate (ATP), 2-deoxyadenylic acid (d-AMP), 5'-thymidylic acid (TMP), 2'-deoxycytidine-5 monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyuridine-5-monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyguanilic Acid (d-GMP), aspartic acid, glutamic acid, l-alanine, arginine, carnosine, cysteine, cystine, glutamine, glycine, histidine, iso-leucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, ornitine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine, ascorbic acid, biotine (H), carnitine, cholecalciferol, choline chloride, cyanocobalamine (B<sub>12</sub>), ergocalciferol, folic acid, myo-inositol, menadione, nicotinamide, PABA, panthotenato, pyridoxal, pyridoxamine, pyridoxine, retinol (A), riboflavine (B<sub>2</sub>), Thiamine (B<sub>1</sub>), 6,8 Thiotic acid, alfa-tocoferol, 3-phytylmenadione (K<sub>1</sub>), tetrahydrofolic acid, hemin from procine, and nanopure water.
3. A growth medium for use in the cultivation of Leishmania genus in the amastigote stage, said media being free of bovine serum.
4. The medium of claim 3 wherein said media comprises calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, monosodium phosphate, glucose, hepes, ferric nitrate, magnesium sulfate, tricine, d-ribose, 2-deoxy ribose, adenosine-5-triphosphate (ATP), 2-deoxyadenylic acid (d-AMP), 5'-thymidylic acid (TMP), 2'-deoxycytidine-5 monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyuridine-5-monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyguanilic Acid (d-GMP), aspartic acid, glutamic acid, l-alanine, arginine, carnosine, cysteine, cystine, glutamine,

glycine, histidine, iso-leucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, ornitine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine, ascorbic acid, biotine (H), carnitine, cholecalciferol, choline chloride, cyanocobalamine (B<sub>12</sub>), ergocalciferol, folic acid, myo-inositol, menadione, nicotinamide, PABA, panthotenato, pyridoxal, pyridoxamine, pyridoxine, retinol (A), riboflavine (B<sub>2</sub>), Thiamine (B<sub>1</sub>), 6,8 Thiotic acid, alfa-tocoferol, 3-phytylmenadione (K<sub>1</sub>), tetrahydrofolic acid, hemin from procine, and nanopure water.

5. A method of maintaining a parasitic organism in vitro comprising contacting a culture comprising the parasitic organism with a bovine serum-free culture medium.

6. The method of claim wherein said culture free medium comprises: calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, monosodium phosphate, glucose, hepes, ferric nitrate, magnesium sulfate, tricine, d-ribose, 2-deoxy ribose, adenosine-5-triphosphate (ATP), 2-deoxyadenylic acid (d-AMP), 5'-thymidylic acid (TMP), 2'-deoxycitidine-5 monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyuridine-5-monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyguanilic Acid (d-GMP), aspartic acid, glutamic acid, l-alanine, arginine, carnosine, cysteine, cystine, glutamine, glycine, histidine, iso-leucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, ornitine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine, ascorbic acid, biotine (H), carnitine, cholecalciferol, choline chloride, cyanocobalamine (B<sub>12</sub>), ergocalciferol, folic acid, myo-inositol, menadione, nicotinamide, PABA, panthotenato, pyridoxal, pyridoxamine, pyridoxine, retinol (A), riboflavine (B<sub>2</sub>), Thiamine (B<sub>1</sub>), 6,8 Thiotic acid, alfa-tocoferol, 3-phytylmenadione (K<sub>1</sub>), tetrahydrofolic acid, hemin from procine, and nanopure water.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said parasitic organism is a member of the Leishmania genus in the amastigote stage.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said culture medium comprises: calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, monosodium phosphate, glucose, hepes, ferric nitrate, magnesium sulfate, tricine, d-ribose, 2-deoxy ribose, adenosine-5-triphosphate (ATP), 2-deoxyadenylic acid (d-AMP), 5'-thymidylic acid (TMP), 2'-deoxycytidine-5 monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyuridine-5-monophosphate (d, 2'-deoxyguanilic Acid (d-GMP), aspartic acid, glutamic acid, l-alanine, arginine, carnosine, cysteine, cystine, glutamine, glycine, histidine, iso-leucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, ornitine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine, ascorbic acid, biotine (H), carnitine, cholecalciferol, choline chloride, cyanocobalamine (B<sub>12</sub>), ergocalciferol, folic acid, myo-inositol, menadione, nicotinamide, PABA, panthotenato, pyridoxal, pyridoxamine, pyridoxine, retinol (A), riboflavine (B<sub>2</sub>), Thiamine (B<sub>1</sub>), 6,8 Thiotic acid, alfa-tocoferol, 3-phytylmenadione (K<sub>1</sub>), tetrahydrofolic acid, hemin from procine, and nanopure water.